

Appln. No. 10/008,603
Amtd. dated November 2, 2004
Reply to Office Action of June 17, 2004
Attorney Docket No. 000594-126753

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are non-elected claims and Claims 7-12 are presently in prosecution. As amended, Claim 7 is believed to distinguish over the cited references and favorable action is respectfully requested.

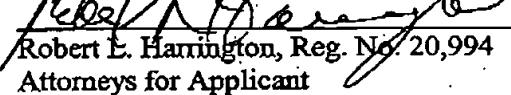
Applicant's objective is to provide an expedient means for enabling, e.g. cattle farms to generate methane gas from a readily accessible source, i.e., manure. The manure is substantially in non-flowable form, e.g., about 30% solid (see page 4, lines 20-24). Bag filling machines for filling large plastic bags can be used to force and at least partially compact the non-flowable material through an open end and into a tubular plastic bag. (Such machines are common, e.g., for compacting silage and compost in similar tubular bags, e.g. see page 2, lines 2-5.) The open end of the bag is removed and tied off but leaving an end portion of the bag unfilled, i.e. the composted material does not "flow" back into the unfilled end. The compacted material generates methane gas which fills the unfilled end portion of the bag and the gas is siphoned off for storage and subsequent use.

With this process the conventional cattle farmer who can readily acquire or even utilize already owned bag filling machinery, can quickly generate storage for a quantity of manure that in turn generates a usable by-product, i.e. methane gas. The system of the present invention is unique by reason of its simplicity and efficiency in occupations where the sophisticated systems of the prior art are not feasible.

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Respectfully, the claim system of Claims 7 through 12 are believed distinguished over the art and favorable consideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


Robert L. Harrington, Reg. No. 20,994
Attorneys for Applicant

Please direct all correspondence related to this application to:

Robert L. Harrington
SCHWABE WILLIAMSON & WYATT
1211 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 1600-1900
Portland, OR 97204-3795

Tel: (503) 796-3742
Fax: (503) 796-2900